

(Washington, DC)- Today Senator Herb Kohl and Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced that they have secured \$500,000 in federal funding in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (H.R. 2419) for Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District. The funds will be awarded to the Eaton Corporation, and will be used to research and develop energy-saving wireless sensor networks. When used in an industrial setting, it is anticipated that the wireless networks will improve energy efficiency by 11 percent to 18 percent. Projected long-term benefits to our nation include energy savings of 279 trillion BTUs, cost savings of \$1.3 billion, and pollutant reduction of 116 million pounds over the next 15 years.

"Wisconsin has always been the home of innovation," said Senator Kohl. "These federal funds will help create the energy technology that will help our manufacturers stay competitive and create the jobs of the 21st century."

"The use of these wireless sensor networks will help American manufacturers stay competitive by ensuring much needed energy efficiency at a time when energy prices are steadily increasing," said Congresswoman Moore. "And the development and manufacturing of the networks here in Milwaukee will lead to the creation of higher paying jobs requiring greater technical skills."

The Eaton Corporation, under agreement with the Department of Energy (DOE), is creating these wireless-enabled power management systems comprised of wireless nodes to monitor energy use throughout a manufacturing plant. The wireless nodes will serve as independent sensors to gather data on the facility's lighting, assembly machinery, utility substations, switchboards, and other industrial technologies. This detailed data from every energy transmission point and consumption point in the plant will then be analyzed by a central computer to determine the best strategies for reducing the facility's energy costs.

H.R. 2419, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, passed the House on Wednesday, November 9 and is expected to pass the Senate soon before going to the President's desk for his signature.

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